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Top 5 Anti-Zionist Myths About The 1948 War



Myth #1

“Immediately after the partition plan, Jewish terrorist organizations attacked innocent Palestinians with the aim of carrying out ethnic cleansing”

A month before the passing of the UN Resolution, Israel Galili, the Hagana’s Chief of staff estimated that:

“As far as we know, it is the Mufti’s belief that there is no better way to ‘start things off than





up, trouble will be incited, and the neighbouring Arab countries will be compelled to start a 'holy war' to assist the Palestinian Arabs."

To prevent this scenario from becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy, the Hagana's initial response to the outbreak of violence was essentially defensive, trying to strike a delicate balance between the need to create a credible deterrence and the desire to prevent the cycle of violence from spiralling to uncontrollable peaks. It was only on 9 December, as Arab attacks on Jewish transportation across the country began to have a palpable effect, that the Hagana's head of operations, Yigael Yadin, ordered commanders to respond in kind so as to curtail the Arab campaign against Jewish transportation [1]

Lehi was caught unprepared when Britain announced its intention to withdraw and the United Nations approved the Partition of Palestine — both spiritually and practically. Lehi had no prepared plan because its members could not believe that the British would keep their word. Lehi still supported the "neutralization of the Middle East" philosophy, which saw all peoples seeking liberation as natural allies, including the Arabs. This is why Lehi did not respond to the Arab riots in Decemebr 1947, demanding only that order be restored. It even suggested to the Haganah that the combat division of Lehi was at its disposal. The Lehi central committee still believed that there would not be a Jewish-Arab war.

The lehi published Arabic-language pamphlets calling for peace, brotherhood, and a shared struggle against the imperialists victimizing both populations and forcing them into needless conflict. they believed that the Jewish-Arab fighting that had broken out following the publication of the UN partition plan would not escalate but would subside once the British fully withdrew from the country. they hadn't counted on the British inciting and leading an invasion of neighboring Arab armies into Palestine following their withdrawal. [2]



פנייה אל הערבים

الى العرب

אנא המלחמים لتحرير اسرائيل «لوحى حרות اسرائيل» والمروفرן لديكم باسم منظمة «شترן» نتقدم اليكم بتعبيرنا هذا:-

لقد حاربنا العدو البريطاني في خلال سنين لاننا كنا نؤمن انه هو عدونا الحقيقي. حاربناه وانتصرنا عليه فعلا. وبفضل حربنا ضد الانكليز اضطرروا الى جلاء البلاد. غير انهم، قبل ان يتركوها حيث لا يرجعون، اخطوا يسعون بكل جهدهم لخلق الجبهة الموحدة ضدكم الى جهة يهودية-عربية. ولقد اخطوا بقصود الى هذه القاية بمساعدة فئة ضئيلة من زعماء العرب، فريق مأجور يخدم الاستعمار البريطاني مدى السنين.

وعوض ان يندموا في ايجاد سبيل للتفاهم مع اليهود والسلام في سبيل تنموج البلاد وحرمانها من يهود مشتركه تراهم قد اوردوا البلاد مأساة دمه شديدة. وما تفعلوا يسمعون الآن الى جذب الاهالي بمجهول هذه المصيبة المرة بالتمريض واخرى الاغراء بلعلائك الجهاد الخلافة.

ايها العرب، جئنا بهذا تنذركم قبل فوات الاوان. اننا «المحاربون لتحرير اسرائيل» لا نعرف رحمة. فلن الاقتدار القوي احداثه في يافا والذي اصحاب لب قيادة الميرمين ما هو الا ابتداء انذار اولي. اولئك الزعماء الذين اوبلوكم بهذا القوي يستترون وراء الاسوار البريطانية فيما الجماهير تركت. وشأنها عرصة للاخطال.

اعلموا ايها الجماهير، انكم ان تواسلوا القيادة الى الاقتراحات اولئك المأجورين الملتصقين من الميعة العربية العليا سوف لا تكون لكم النعمة ولا تستطيحوا انقاذ انفسكم. ويشهد بذلك الآلاف اللاجئين من يافا وجيفا وقلقس. وانما انما تقاديتهم في السبيل بهذه الطريق سوف لا يكون لكم مفر. لقد انكرونا جميعكم عرصة لجبروتنا. كل مدينة وقرية وكل بيت وكلما يصبح هدفا لنا، نطمر وابل قناجنا عليكم جميعاً. فلا جنتين ولا رايقة ولا براقص ولا كايوس او غيرها... لن يكون احدنا مفرأ اميناً لكم ولن نكتب خبرتنا على رؤوسكم. ولن تكون جبهة هنا وسلياً هناك. فلا تخطوا وراء الاكوال على كعدة ما من المورل العربية المجاورة. ان التكتل والنداح قد ملأت القوامهم.

ألا تخطوا، ان المحاربين لتحرير اسرائيل سيأتونكم في ظلام الليل وضوء النهار. ولن تعرفوا لراحة سبيلا.

اننا نذركم، قبل الحماق، الى السلم والانه. فلما نشتم ان تذكروا المغررة للزعمين بالزلمة لنصموا كنكم من المغررة ومن فضايل البلاد ولنكنكم ان تذكروا في الانحراف وراء المسائل البريطانية وماجورهم فلن تكدوا لراحة من.

الحياة والموت امامكم. فاختراروا ما شقتم.

وها قد خيرناكم وانذرناكم !!

المحاربون لتحرير اسرائيل
«منظمة شترن»

The original Arab-language leaflet

صدر في حزيران سنة ١٩٤٨، القرائن في ربيع الاول سنة ١٣٦٧.

“To the Arabs!

We of Lehi, known to you as the “Stern Gang,” warn you:

We have fought the British enemy for years, because we were convinced that they were the true foe and we overcame them... But prior to their leaving they have tried to turn the international front into a Jewish-Arab one. They have succeeded in doing so through the help of traitorous gangs led by mercenary leaders who have served British imperialism for years.

Instead of trying to find a way to understanding with the Jews in peace so as to improve this country jointly, we see how they are bringing havoc on this land in a despicable bloodletting. And now they attempt to exploit the ignorance of the masses and to draw them in on the one hand by frenzied propaganda and on the other by baseless jihad.

O Arabs! We warn you before its too late. We of Lehi will know no mercy. The explosion at Jaffa’s Saariya was the first warning. Those criminal leaders killed brought upon you these troubles, hid behind British skirts and





as shelter... Don't follow blindly the talk of reinforcements from the Arab neighboring states for falsehood has overflowed.

Therefore know that Lehi will come to you at night and during the day and you will know no rest. At this last moment we call to you for peace and solidarity. If you quit your treasonous leaders you will benefit from freedom and the blessing of this land. But if you follow the evil designs of the British and their hirelings, they will not save you.

Before you are life and death. The choice is yours.
We have given you the alternative and warned you."

The Irgun also began carrying out reprisal missions. At the same time though, it published announcements calling on the Arabs to lay down their weapons and maintain a ceasefire:

"The National Military Organization has warned you, if the murderous attacks on Jewish civilians shall continue, its soldiers will penetrate your centers of activity and plague you. You have not heeded the warning. You continued to harm our brothers and murder them in wild cruelty. Therefore soldiers of the National Military Organization will go on the attack, as we have warned you.... However even in these frenzied times, when Arab and Jewish blood is spilled at the British enslaver, we hereby call upon you ... to stop the attacks and create peace between us. We do not want a war with you. We are certain that neither do you want a war with us..." [3]

The confrontation actually started when the Arab Higher Committee proclaimed a three-day nationwide strike to begin the following day. It enforced the closure of all Arab shops, schools and places of business and organised and incited large Arab crowds to take to the streets to attack Jewish targets. The main such attack took place in Jerusalem on Tuesday 2 December, when a crowd of several hundred Arabs ransacked the new Jewish commercial centre, lying opposite the Old City's walls, looting and burning shops and stabbing and stoning whoever they happened upon. A Hagana platoon that was rushed to the area to protect civilians was peremptorily stopped and disarmed by the British police, with 16 of its members arrested for illegal possession of weapons. Some of the confiscated weapons were later found on killed and captured Arab rioters. From the commercial centre, the mob proceeded to the City Hall, where they attempted to burn



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to destroy the products of man's labours ... I remonstrated with the police [who] told me that they had orders not to interfere till they were reinforced.' On 4 December, some 120–150 armed Arabs attacked kibbutz Eyal, on the outskirts of Tel-Aviv, in the first large-scale attempt to storm a Jewish settlement. Four days later a more audacious assault was launched when hundreds of armed Arabs attacked the Hatikva quarter in south Tel-Aviv.



THE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO THE UNITED NATIONS PARTITION PLAN 30 NOVEMBER - 11 DECEMBER 1947

0 10 20
Miles

2 Dec 1 Jew killed by Arab rioters
7 Dec 1 Jew killed by Arabs. 1 Arab killed after Arabs attack Jews
8 Dec 5 Jews, 1 Arab and 1 British policeman killed
9 Dec 2 Jews, 2 Arabs killed after an Arab boy threw a grenade at a Jewish shop
11 Dec Jews attack Arab quarter, 6 Arabs and 1 Jew killed

30 Nov 7 Jews murdered by Arabs who attacked Jerusalem-bound buses
2 Dec 3 Jews killed
7 Dec 4 Jews and 1 Arab killed
8 Dec 6 Jews murdered
11 Dec 1 Jew killed when Arabs attack Jewish convoy

2 Dec 2 Arabs killed
9 Dec 2 Jewish guards killed

2 Dec 1 Jew killed by Arabs

9 Dec A Jewish watchman killed by Arabs

9 Dec 6 teenage Jews (one a girl) murdered by an Arab mob

11 Dec Arabs attack a Jewish convoy on the Jerusalem - Hebron road. 10 Jews killed

In the twelve days following the United Nations Partition plan, 79 Jews were killed by Arabs throughout Palestine. The British, who were still responsible for law and order, did not always enforce it. Sometimes they would disarm a Jewish defence group, which would then be attacked by armed Arabs. The Jews defended themselves, and in places counter-attacked. During this same period, 32 Arabs were killed, some by Jews and some by the British police

On 1 December 1947 an Arab mob in Beirut (Lebanon) attacked Jewish houses and synagogues, which were looted and burned. On 9 December an Arab mob in Aden attacked the Jewish community there, killing 82 Jews. During the fighting, 34 Arabs were killed

4 Dec 1 Jew killed

4 Dec 1 Arab killed

6 Dec Arabs kill 8 Jews
7 Dec Arabs kill 5 Jews
8 Dec 4 Jews killed or burnt alive, during an Arab attack

6 Dec Arabs attack a Jewish settlement; 8 Arabs killed

7 Dec Arabs ambush a Jewish bus. A Jewish girl of 19 killed

2 Dec A mob of 200 Arabs loot Jewish shops, smash windows of houses and stab passers-by. 6 Jews seriously injured
3 Dec 1 Jew killed by Arabs in the Old City
4 Dec Arabs attack a Jewish synagogue: 1 Jew wounded, 1 Arab killed
7 Dec 2 Jews killed by Arab snipers
8 Dec 2 Jews stabbed to death
11 Dec Arabs attempt to drive the Jews from the Old City. The Jews defend themselves. 3 Arabs and 1 Jew killed

Arabs and Moslems throughout the world will obstruct it, and all Asia with its thousand million people will oppose it THE SYRIAN DELEGATE TO THE UN, ON THE UN PARTITION PLAN 30 NOV 1947

Jews will take all measures to protect themselves THE JEWISH NATIONAL COUNCIL, 3 DEC 1947



This is a myth I have already refuted in a previous article “[There was no Zionist ethnic cleansing plan in 1948](#)”

But here to add more context.

From January onward, Arab operations became increasingly militarized, with the intervention of a number of regiments of the Arab Liberation Army (consisting of volunteers from Arab countries) inside Palestine, each active in a variety of distinct sectors around the different coastal towns. They consolidated their presence in Galilee and Samaria. Abd al-Qadir al-Husayni came from Egypt with several hundred men of the Army of the Holy War. Having recruited a few thousand volunteers, al-Husayni organised the blockade of the 100,000 Jewish residents of Jerusalem. To counter this, the Yishuv authorities tried to supply the Jews of the city with food by using convoys of up to 100 armoured vehicles, but the operation became more and more impractical as the number of casualties in the relief convoys surged. By March, Al-Hussayni's tactic, sometimes called “The War of the Roads”, had paid off. Almost all of Haganah's armoured vehicles had been destroyed, the blockade was in full operation, In the last week of March, 136 supply trucks had tried to reach Jerusalem; only 41 had made it and the Haganah had lost more than 100 troops. According to Benny Morris the situation for those who dwelt in the Jewish settlements in the highly isolated Negev and North of Galilee was equally critical. [4]

This was the background to Plan Dalet, the growing siege of the Jewish settlement

Myth #3

“Arab states only intervened on May 15 because of the ethnic cleansing that has already begun in Palestine!”





Between 8 and 17 December the heads of the Arab states met in Cairo for a series of meetings, under the auspices of the Arab League, to discuss the Palestine situation. The gathering defined the overarching Arab objective as ‘obstructing the partition plan, preventing the creation of a Jewish state, and preserving Palestine as an independent unified Arab state’. To this end, the Arab states would contribute one million Egyptian pounds to the Palestine war effort (on top of the same amount promised three months earlier by another Arab League summit in the Lebanese town of Sofar), would place some 10,000 rifles at the disposal of the League’s military committee and would make the necessary arrangements for the recruitment of 3,000 volunteers for the ALA that was being established in Syria. They also reaffirmed the decision, taken at the Alei summit of October 1947, to deploy their forces along the Palestine border so long as the





The Arab Legion intervened in the war even before the general Arab invasion in May 1948 trained the Arabs of the Land of Israel and fought alongside them.

Abdullah al-Tel, commander of the Jerusalem Legion during the War of Independence and governor of East Jerusalem after it, testified in his memoir, after Hecht in November, when he was annexed to the First British Division, whose headquarters in Sarband, “helped Allah fulfill my duty in the struggle in Palestine” Additional Arabs and in coordination with the heads of the local leadership of the Arabs of Palestine, including the mayor of Lod, trained young people from Lod, Ramla , Abbasiya, al-Beria... to use weapons they borrowed from the Legion’s warehouses, including ranges.

On December 14, 1947, the Legion killed 13 members of the Ben Shemen convoy while murdering helpless wounded.

On April 22, the Legion units stationed along the Jenin-Haifa road assisted the Arabs in the battle for Haifa.

Between April 27 and 29, the Legion attacked Kibbutz Gesher in an attempt to occupy it, even though Gesher was intended to be within the borders of the Jewish state according to the partition plan.

The Legion blocked the road to Jerusalem in the Latrun area (which the Jordanians held until the Six-Day War) and in the process renewed the siege of Jewish Jerusalem.

On May 12, it attacked Gush Etzion and split it in two. The bloc settlements surrendered two days later. Survivors of the massacre in Kfar Etzion went into Jordanian captivity.

This clearly shows that the decision to officially intervene on May 15 was not related to any “ethnic cleansing”, but simply a wait for the end of the British Mandate to attack the Jewish Yeshov completely exposed.

Myth #4





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Egypt's air force and navy invaded Israeli air space and offshore waters to attack Tel Aviv and other areas of Israel repeatedly

The New York Times.
**ZIONISTS PROCLAIM NEW STATE OF ISRAEL;
 TRUMAN RECOGNIZES IT AND HOPES FOR PEACE;
 TEL AVIV IS BOMBED, EGYPT ORDERS INVASION**

The Palestine Post, Monday, May 17, 1948; Section: Front page, Page. 1

Evidence of Egyptian Aggression Presented to Security Council

LAKE SUCCESS, Sunday (PTA). — Evidence of Egyptian aggression against the State of Israel was formally communicated to M. Alexandre Parodi, President of the U.N. Security Council, by Mr. Moshe Shertok, Foreign Secretary of State.

Mr. Shertok's cable, urging immediate action by the Security Council to check and prevent this open aggression by a member of the U.N., "carried on by its regular forces" was telegraphed at his request to M. Parodi by Mr. Arthur Lourie, Director of the Jewish Agency's New York Office.

The message read:

"I have the honour to submit for your information the text of a cablegram received by the Jewish Agency office in New York from the Foreign Secretary of the State of Israel, dated Tel Aviv, May 15, 9.20 p.m.

"Please call immediately to the urgent attention of the Security Council the following facts:

- "(1) Several Egyptian planes bombed Tel Aviv in repeated waves early this morning and again this afternoon, causing deaths and destruction.
- "(2) Our anti-aircraft defences, which went into action immediately, shot down one plane, whose pilot was unhurt and taken prisoner. The aircraft is a Spitfire, the markings of which were a Roman 53, and those of the Royal Egyptian Air Force. The pilot's name is Flight-Lieutenant Mahmud Baraka, of Egyptian Fighter Squadron No. 2. According to his deposition, the Commander of the said Squadron participated in the raid.
- "(3) Aircraft bearing the Egyptian Air Force markings also raided the settlement of Nirim

DUAL ARAB TALKS ON PALESTINE

In spite of repeated announcements of Arab unity in the fight for Palestine, talks are being held in two different Arab capitals—Damascus and Amman, according to "Yedioth Aharonot."

In the former, Arab League talks are under way by Egypt, Syria, the Lebanon and a representative of the Arab Higher Committee, while in Amman, Emir Abdul Illah, Regent of Iraq, is conferring with King Abdullah.

Despite the "Arab victories" of the past few days, the Arab League would consider a truce for Jerusalem, Azzam Pasha, Secretary of the League, was reported to have said in Damascus yesterday.

The statement was made in a declaration to the Arab people which claimed League jurisdiction over the Arab Higher Committee.

MUFTI ON WAY TO JERUSALEM

DAMASCUS, Sunday (Reuter). — Haj Amin El Hussein, the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem and Chairman of the Arab Higher Committee, left Damascus this morning by air for Cairo,

Egyptian Plane Brought Down

TEL AVIV, Tuesday. — Another Egyptian plane was brought down by Tel Aviv's anti-aircraft defences this morning. The 22-year-old pilot was taken prisoner when his plane crashed near Rishon Le-Zion.

It bore British markings which had been freshly painted over and was equipped with four Browning machine-guns and two light cannon as well as an incendiary bomb.

A Jewish communique tonight said:

Enemy aircraft dropped bombs and incendiaries over Tel Aviv several times during the day. It also machine-gunned civilians in the streets.

A terror raid was carried out over a crowded bus station, and 41 persons were killed.

A fighter-bomber circled five times over the centre of the town in the third successive raid of the day. The Tel Aviv bomber, it was said, dropped bombs, and each time went into a power dive, releasing its bombs at a low altitude.

In the bombing on Monday three people were killed, according to B.B.C. reports. A hospital and a synagogue were hit.

Polish Protest

The Polish Minister in Cairo has lodged a formal protest with the Egyptian Government at the bombing of a Polish ship in Tel Aviv Port by Egyptian planes this week. The vessel's captain and several members of the crew were

EGYPTIAN NAVY

TURNED BACK FROM COAST

Four Craft Approach Tel Aviv Shoreline

TEL AVIV, Saturday. — In the first naval engagement of the war, the Israeli Navy, Air Force and coastal defences drove off Egyptian navy units which approached this town yesterday. Four Egyptian ships — a corvette, an armed tugboat, a minesweeper (the Queen Rawdat), and two British type landing craft — approached the coast about 8 p.m.

Egyptian Craft Over Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — Arab aircraft, again believed to be Egyptian, attacked the northern quarters of Tel Aviv from great height this afternoon, but caused no damage.

The explosions were heavier than the 50-pound fragmentation bomb which killed 41 and wounded 60 persons yesterday, the Associated Press reported.

There were several other alerts earlier in the day, but no bombs were dropped, and no anti-aircraft fire was heard.

It is now learned that the Egyptian plane which was shot down yesterday near Ness Ziona was piloted by an officer from Upper Egypt who said he had been ordered to bomb fuel dumps in Tel Aviv.

He also said that Egyptian participation in the war was the result of pressure from King Abdullah. The Egyptians had originally intended only to provide material assistance, but not to play a direct part, he added.

Women and children were among the 41 persons who were killed and 60 wounded when the crowded bus terminal was strafed. Three newspaper printers were killed when a press was hit.

4 MORE RAIDS ON TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, Thursday. — Four bombing raids were made over Tel Aviv today. In one area of the city the Arab aircraft dived within a few hundred feet of the streets.

The Arab village of Safaria, between Beit Dajan and Sarafand, was captured by Haganah forces last night.

On the coastal plain north of Gaza, the tiny settlement of Kfar Mordochai again repulsed heavy attacks of the Egyptian Army. Aircraft, tanks, artillery, and infantry were used. A new attack was mounted and fighting is still going on.

It is now learned that Har Tuv settlement, 21 kilometres east of Jerusalem, has been evacuated of its Jewish inhabitants. The evacuation was carried out early in the week without incident.

The Egyptian forces on the ground attacked Kibbutzim Negba, Nirim and Urim, all





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NEGBA SIEGE BROKEN

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — An Egyptian force in battalion strength was routed this morning in the **Negba-Julis-hill** 103 triangle. The enemy lost 200 dead and 200 wounded. Three bren carriers, two six pounders, 10 pits as well as machine guns and ammunition trucks, were seized.

Thereout of the Egyptian force broke the siege of Negba, the outpost communal settlement which had been hard pressed for some time.

The Jewish force, which comprised infantry and a strong mechanized command unit, attacked the Egyptians just after midnight. The battle continued until dawn, and the enemy lines were broken. The battlefield was littered with dead, and the Egyptians withdrew in confusion over the bodies of their comrades.

At the same time, a mechanized Israeli unit stormed through the highway to Isdud, the Egyptian advance base. The Jewish raiders sprayed the streets with automatic fire and blew up a number of buildings, causing panic and confusion.

Other Jewish units mopped up the villages of Bilin and Darafish, and control the villages of Adnur, Tel Zakariyah, Dir Ruben and the road to Beit Jibrin.

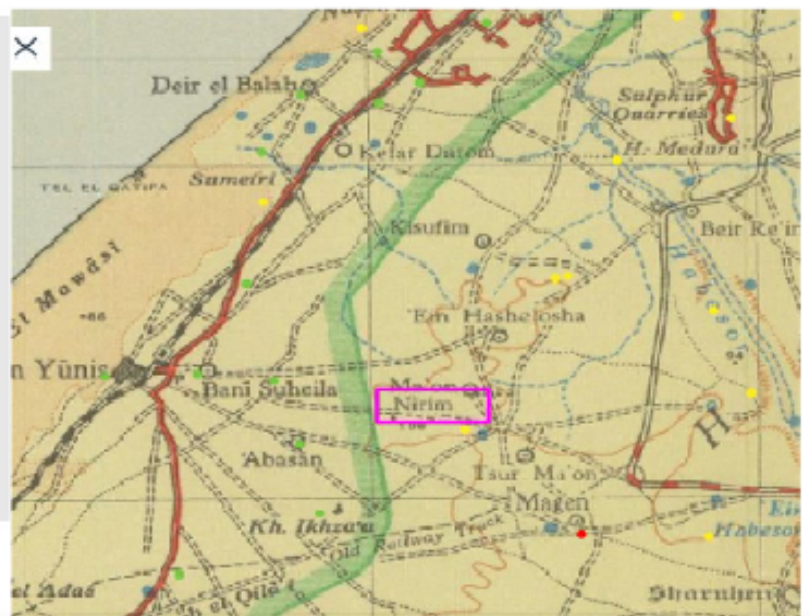
An Egyptian attack on Bar-ka was thrown back with 11 dead.

Location of Nega



Egyptians Attack Negev Settlement

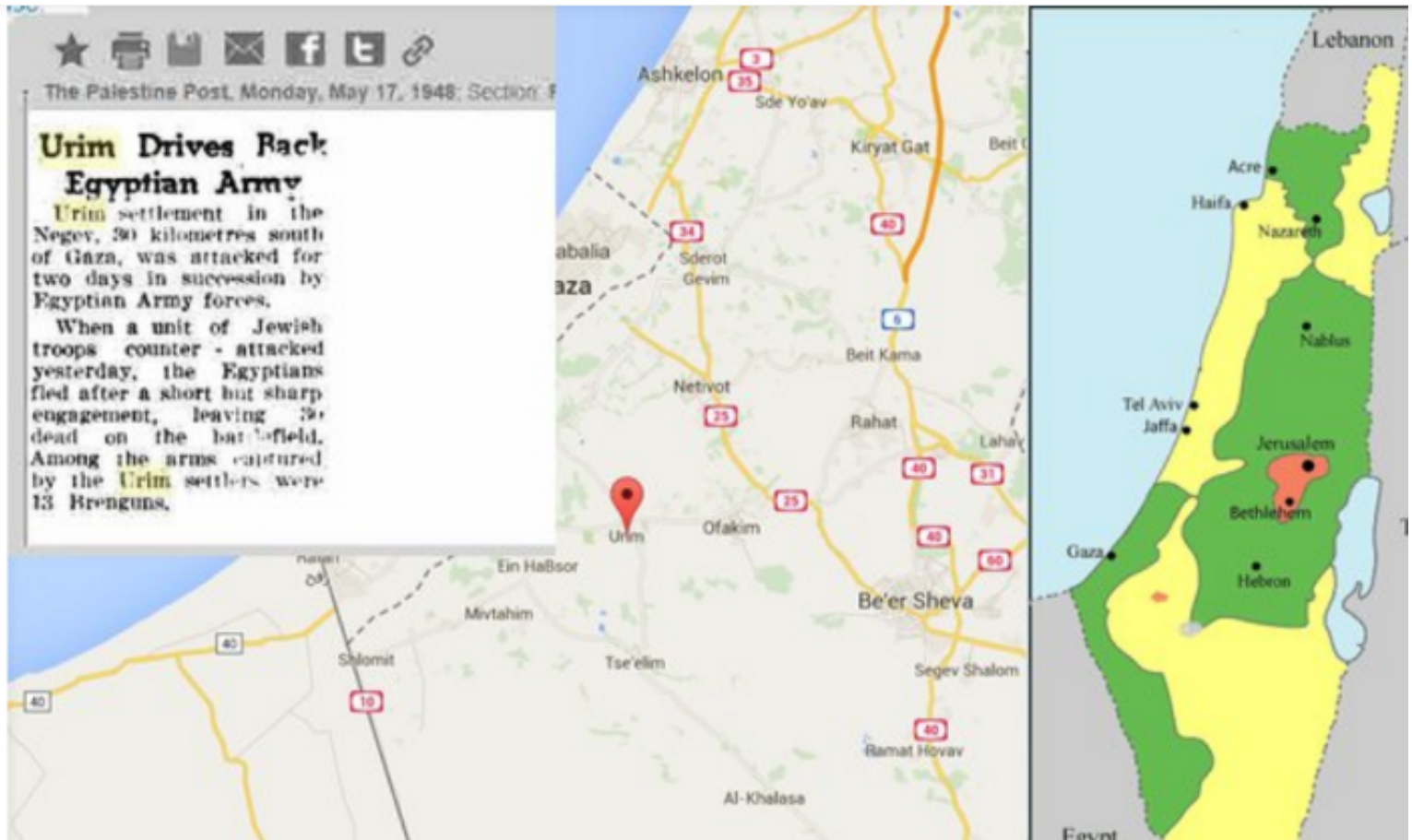
TEL AVIV (JTA)—Egyptian units, supported by about 15 tanks, launched a heavy attack against the Jewish settlement of **Nirim**, south of Gaza, in the Negev, an official Israeli communique said. The government also revealed that in a recent clash in the Negev, the Egyptians lost a battalion, with the number of dead alone above 100.



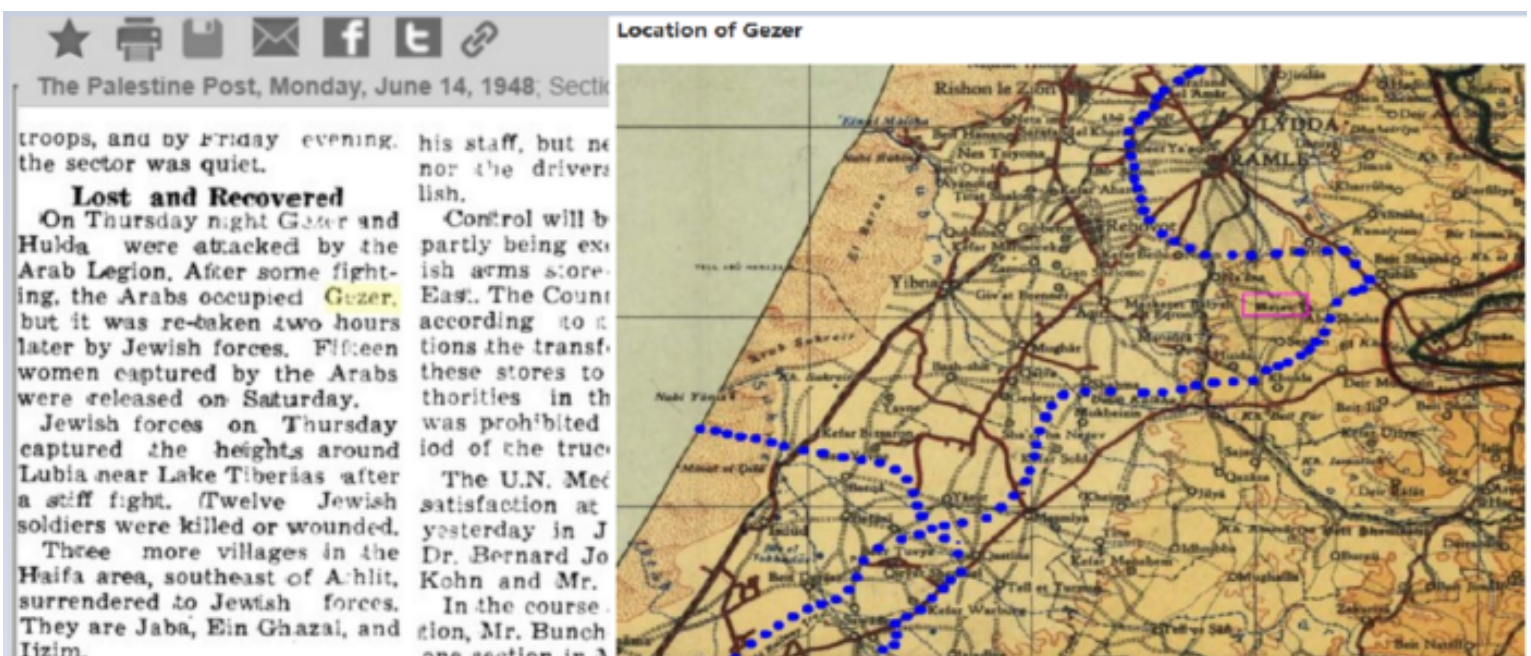


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The Jordanians attacked Gezer, Hulda and Jerusalem, which, though not in the Israeli sector was a Jewish majority city in the neutral zone.

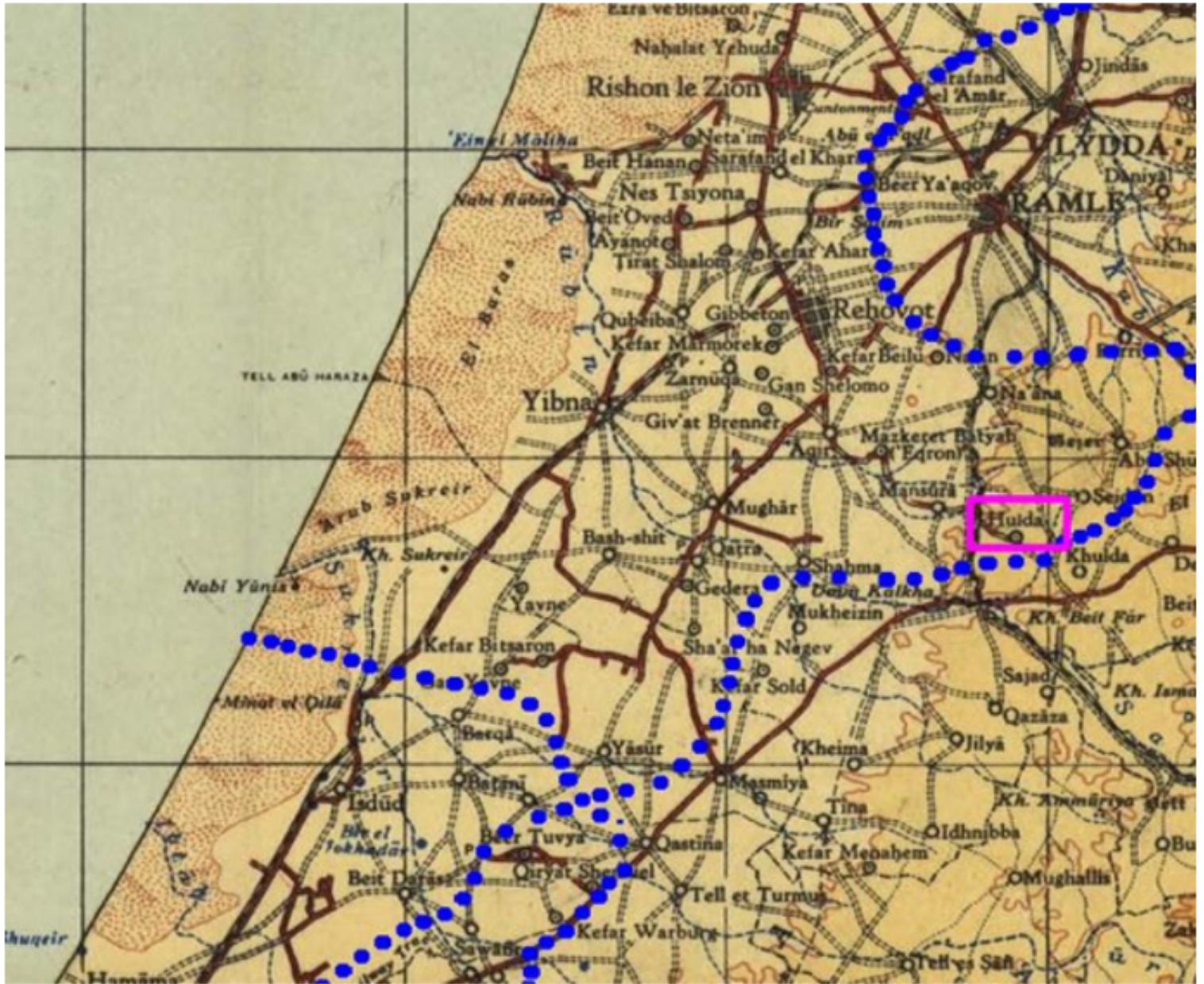




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Location of Hulda



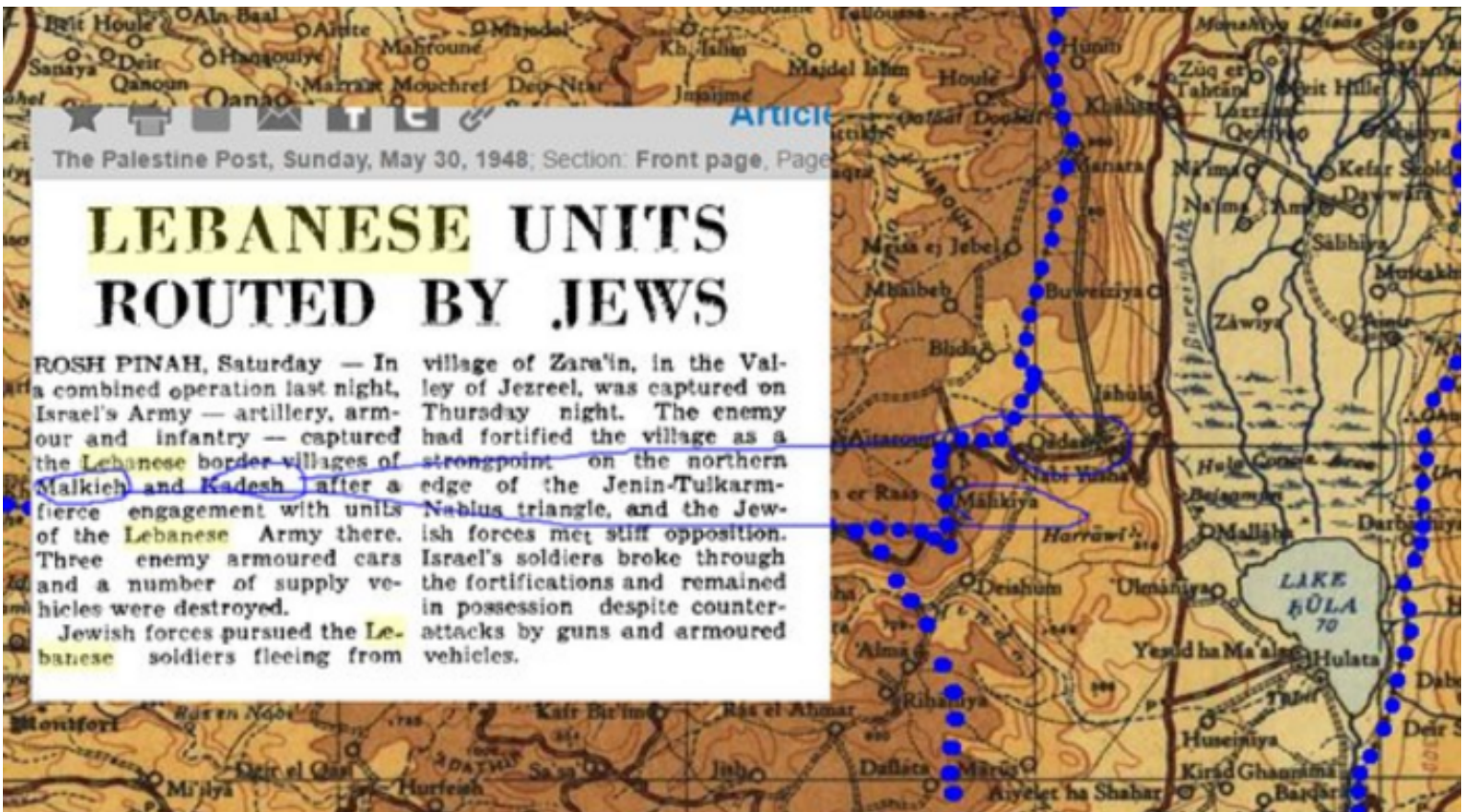
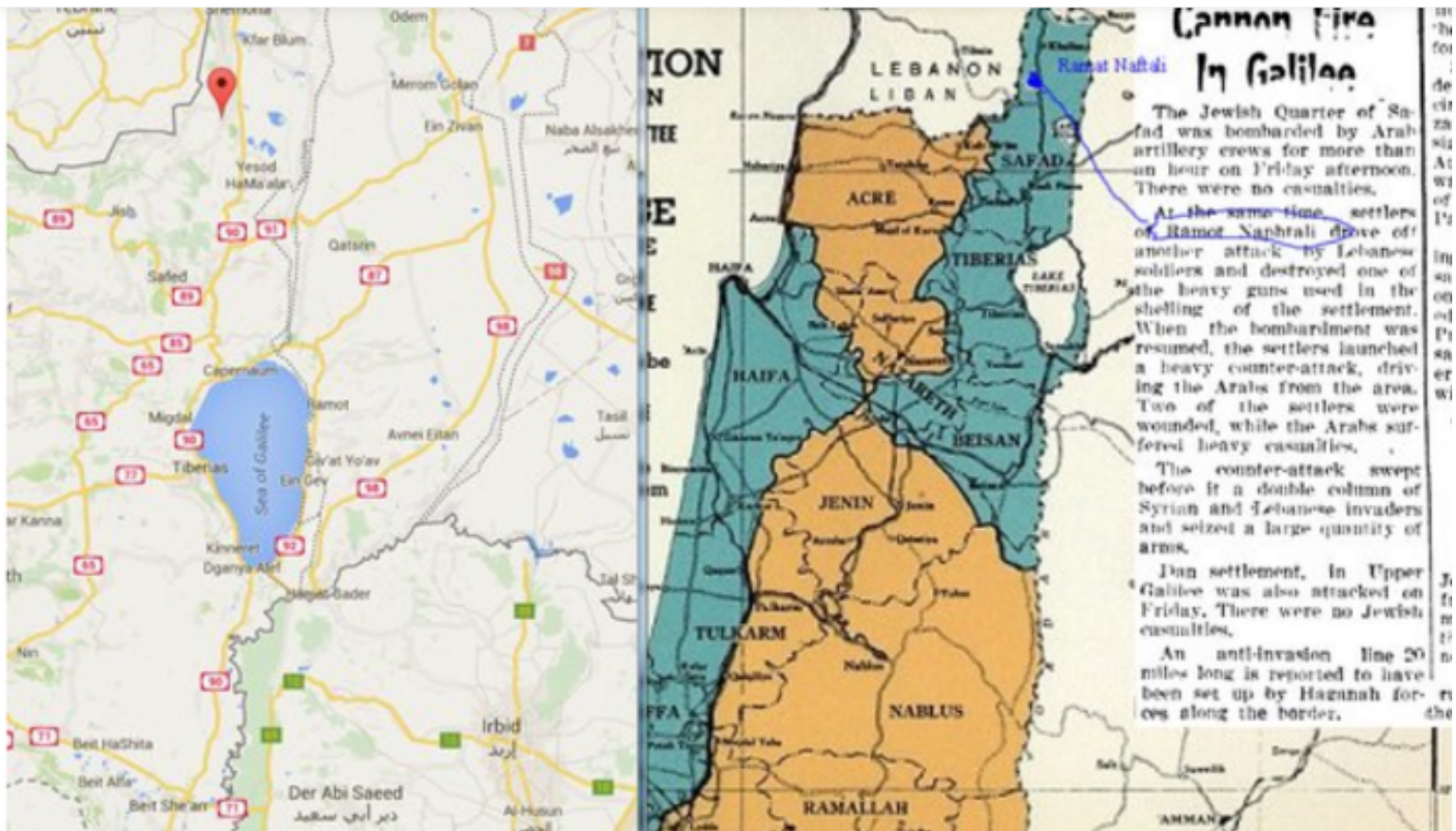
The Lebanese army attacked Ramat Naftali, Malkiye, Kadesh, Nebi Yeshua and Zara'in, all in the Israeli sector.





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Article
The Palestine Post, Sunday, May 30, 1948, Section: Front page, Page 1

LEBANESE UNITS ROUTED BY JEWS

ROSE PINAH, Saturday — In a combined operation last night, Israel's Army — artillery, armour and infantry — captured the Lebanese border villages of Malkieh and Kudesh after a fierce engagement with units of the Lebanese Army there. Three enemy armoured cars and a number of supply vehicles were destroyed. Jewish forces pursued the Lebanese soldiers fleeing from village of Zar'in in the Valley of Jezreel, was captured on Thursday night. The enemy had fortified the village as a strongpoint on the northern edge of the Jenin/Tulkarm-Nablus triangle, and the Jewish forces met stiff opposition. Israel's soldiers broke through the fortifications and remained in possession despite counter-attacks by guns and armoured vehicles.



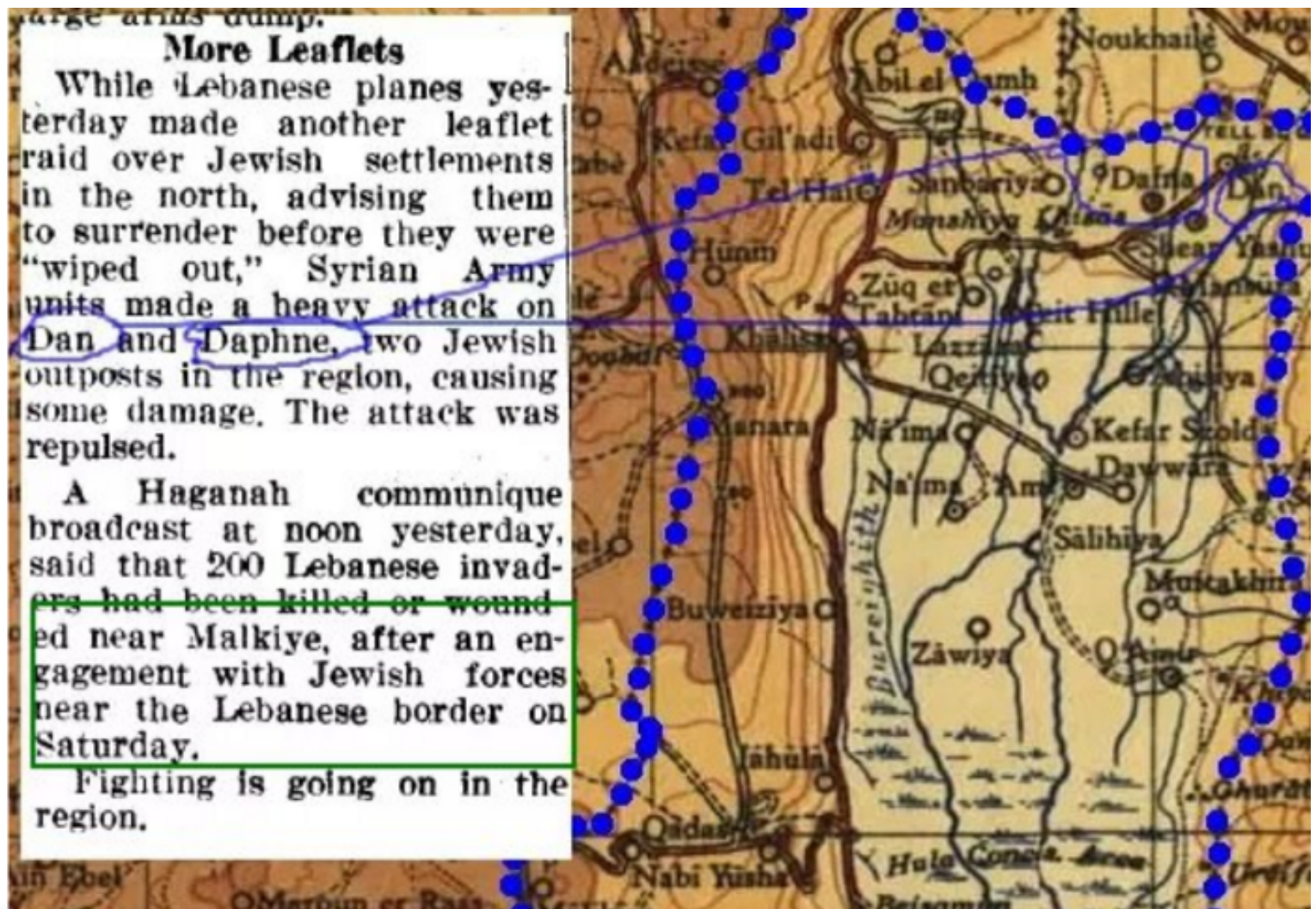
large arms dump.

More Leaflets

While Lebanese planes yesterday made another leaflet raid over Jewish settlements in the north, advising them to surrender before they were "wiped out," Syrian Army units made a heavy attack on Dan and Daphne, two Jewish outposts in the region, causing some damage. The attack was repulsed.

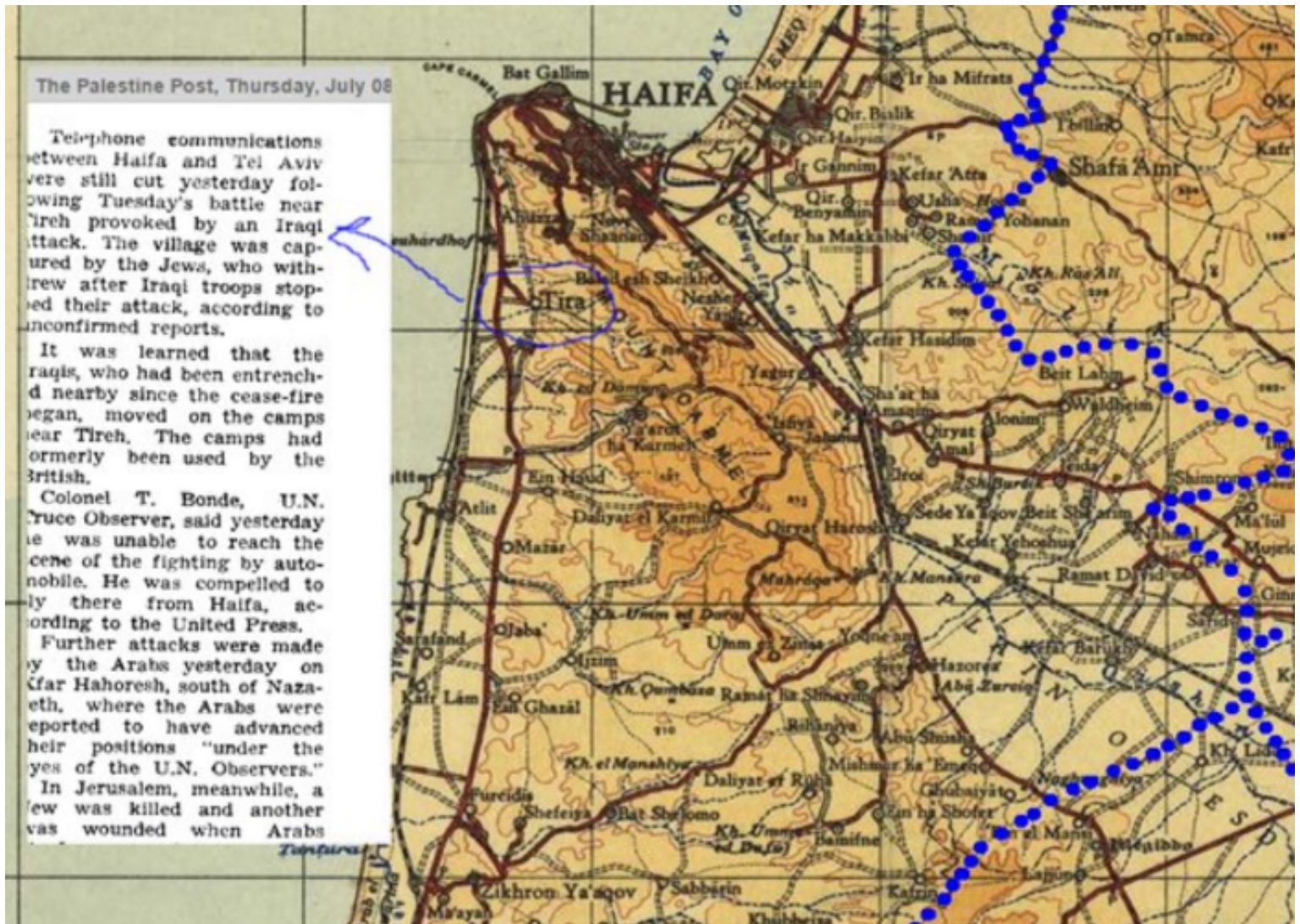
A Haganah communique broadcast at noon yesterday, said that 200 Lebanese invaders had been killed or wounded near Malkiye, after an engagement with Jewish forces near the Lebanese border on Saturday.

Fighting is going on in the region.





Iraq attacked at Tira, inside Israel



Iraq and Syria together attacked Gesher, Ein Gev, Shar Ha Golan, Mesada and Degania.





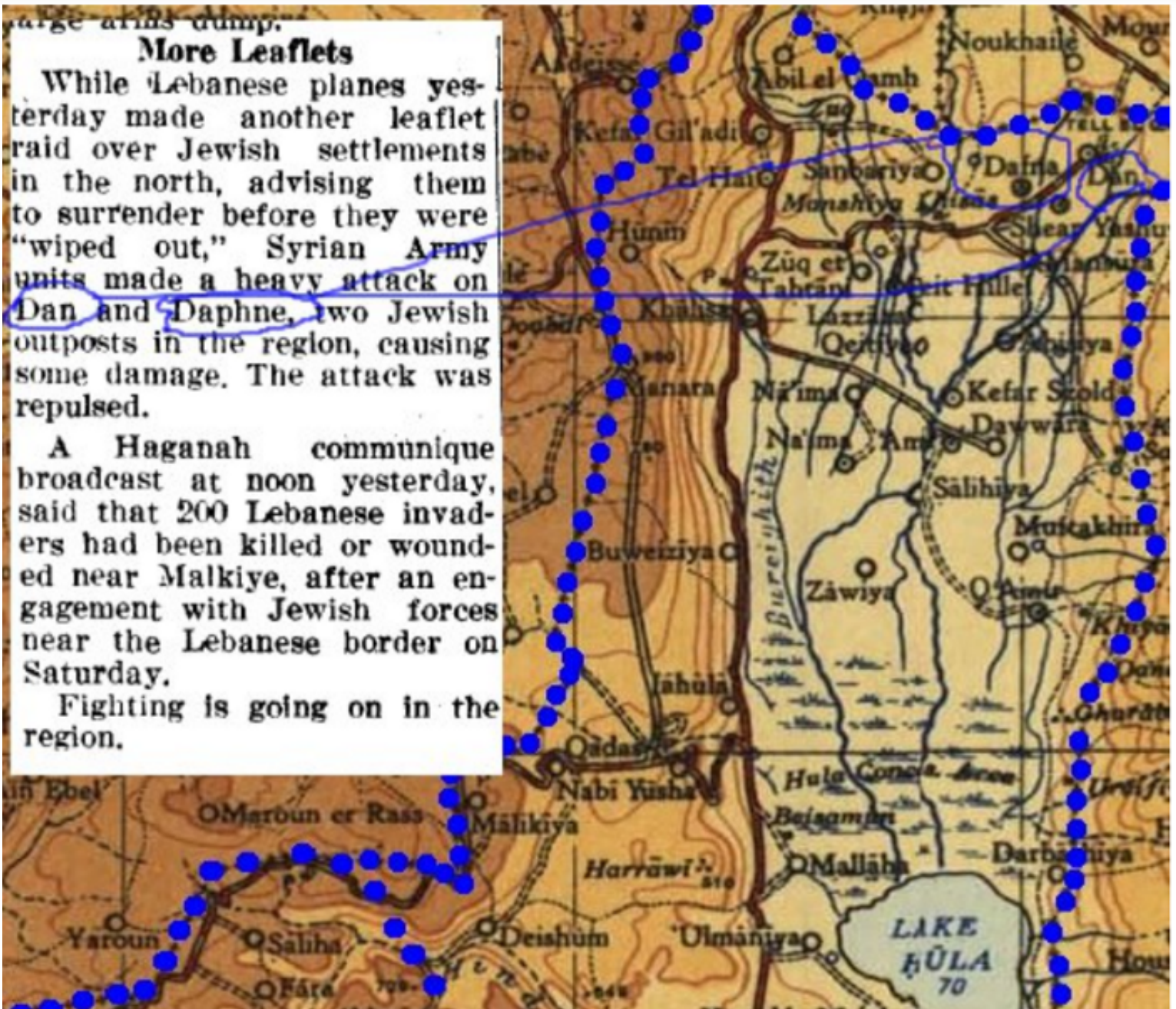
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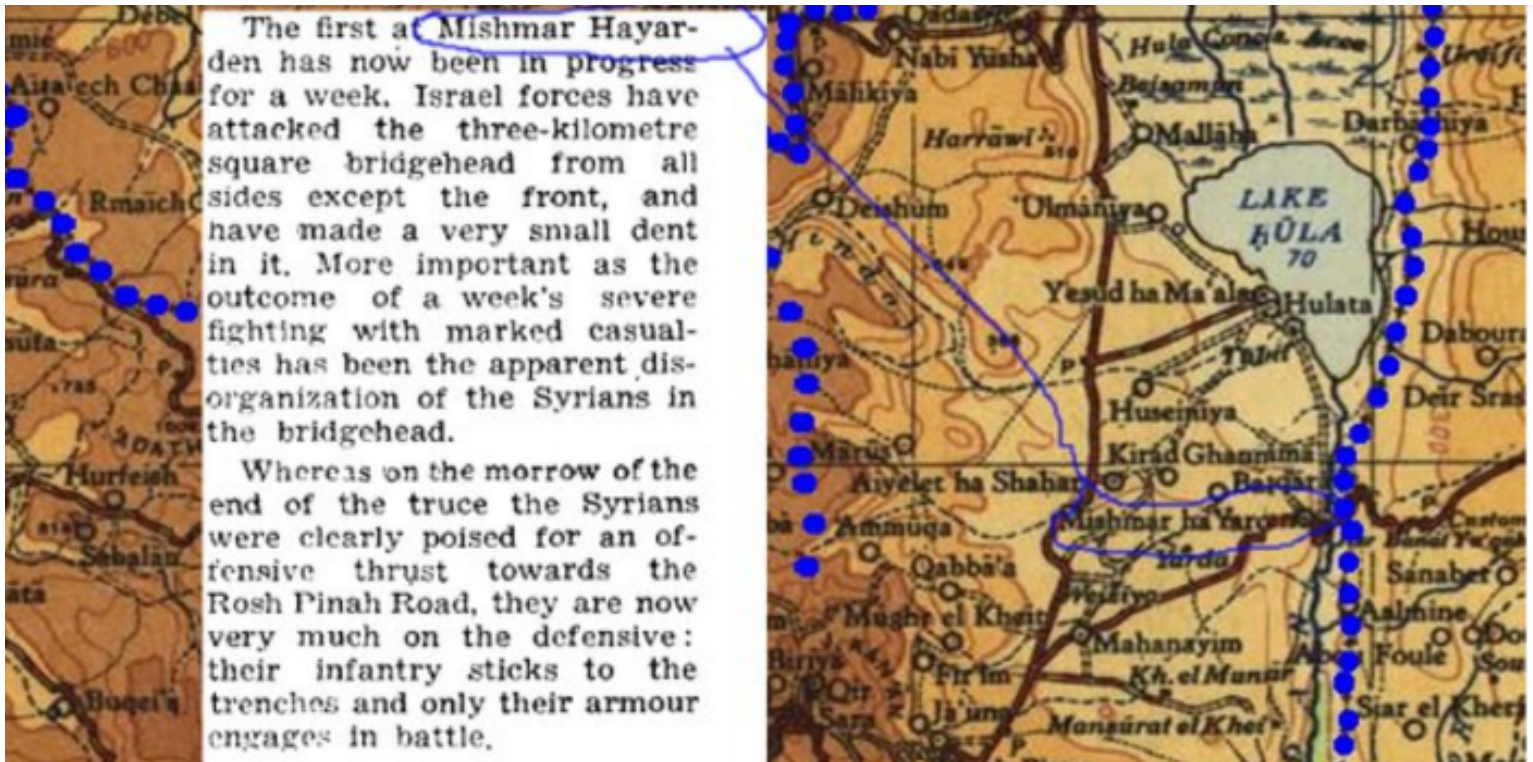
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Syria attacked Kibbutz Mishmar HaYarden, and the Arab Liberation Army attacked the Afula Tiberias road at Sejera, also in Israel.





Myth #5

“Massacres by the Zionists were widespread and supported by the leadership”

According to Benny Morris, Yishuv (or later Israeli) soldiers killed roughly 800 Arab civilians and prisoners of war in 24 incidents.

This includes incidents that have since been questioned such as Lydda and Deir Yassin. Considering the war killed over 2,000 Jewish civilians, let alone nearly 600 Jewish captives who were “slaughtered amid scenes of gang rape and sodomy... dismembered, decapitated, mutilated and then photographed.” [5]





“Al Zot” is a poem by Natan Alterman published in the newspaper “Davar” on November 19, 1948, when the War of Independence was in full swing. The song describes a war crime of an IDF soldier, and at the end there is a demand to prosecute war criminals and not whitewash their actions. After its publication, the song was distributed among IDF soldiers, according to a decision by David Ben-Gurion, the prime minister and defense minister. [6]

[1] The Arab-Israeli Conflict: The Palestine War 1948 by Efraim Karsh page 31

[2] <https://visionmag.org/story-natan-yellin-mor/>

[3] https://web.archive.org/web/20210302120953/https://www.daat.ac.il/daat/ezrac hut/begin/47_20-2.htm

[4] Benny Morris (2008). *1948: a history of the first Arab-Israeli war* page 116

[5] Netanel Lorch, The Edge of the Sword: Israel's War of Independence, 1947–1949 (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1961), 450 (2,000 civilians); Sarah Honig, Jerusalem Post, March 1, 2001 (600 captives).

[6] https://he.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D7%A2%D7%9C_%D7%96%D7%90%D7%AA





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